



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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# New Investments to Keep Minnesotans Safe

**The departments of Public Safety (DPS) and Corrections (DOC) are key elements of Minnesota's public safety infrastructure, helping ensure the safety of our citizens. Governor Dayton's budget invests in improving the safety of all Minnesotans by providing needed improvements and ensuring adequate staffing.**

» **Providing Body Armor to Protect Police Officers.** The Governor's budget reimburses law enforcement for 50% of their bullet proof vests. The current budget is insufficient to cover all reimbursement requests.

» **Improving School Safety.** The Governor's budget reestablishes the Minnesota School Safety Center. The Center will work closely with state agencies and the federal government to provide resources to schools statewide for emergency planning, training, and preparedness.

» **Improving Evidence Integrity and Forensic Analysis.** The Governor's budget includes funding for additional staff and equipment for Minnesota's premier crime lab to ensure the integrity of evidence collection and forensic analysis. It will fund additional drug chemists and toxicologists to reduce turnaround time for forensic analysis at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA).

» **Modernizing an Aging Criminal History System.** The Governor's budget replaces the state's aging criminal history system and crime reporting system. This measure will ensure crime trends in Minnesota are tracked more accurately and help hold criminals accountable for their crimes.

» **Safe and Secure Incarceration.** The Governor's budget includes \$38 million to ensure safe and secure incarceration and community supervision.

- **Adequate Prison Staffing.** These investments ensure cuts are not made to staffing levels in our correctional institutions; 74% of DOC employees work directly with inmates and offenders on supervision in Minnesota communities.
- **Funding Programs that Work.** Programs that lower recidivism will not be cut. Over 90% of all offenders in Minnesota prisons are addicted to or abuse drugs and alcohol. Providing treatment lowers their recidivism rate by 23%. Providing education and vocational training increases the likelihood of an offender finding employment by 59%. Post-secondary education lowers recidivism by 14%.

» **Increasing Funding for the Courts.** The Governor's budget provides \$33 million in new funding for Minnesota's court system. For nearly a decade, the courts have suffered repeated cuts resulting in staff reductions and a backlog of caseloads. This new investment will maintain core justice operations and ensure justice is delivered swiftly.

» **Increasing Funding for Public Defenders.** The Governor's budget provides \$8.6 million in new funding for public defense services. This new investment will help maintain existing public defenders, create more manageable caseloads for public defenders, and enhance services for minority communities. Right now, caseloads for public defenders in Minnesota are 150% higher than standards recommended by the American Bar Association.